

Minutes of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee of January 20, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Town Clerk, the Sustainable Energy Committee (Committee) met at 7:00 p.m. in the first Floor Meeting room at 141 Keyes Road.

Present:

Pamela Hathaway (Chair)
Eric Gamage (Vice Chair)
Sally Hughes
Gayle Chatlosh
Brian Crounse
Sean Detweiler
Art Fulman
Tyke Crowley

Ms. Hathaway convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Crowley took minutes.

ConcordCares Update

Mr. Crounse informed the members that 70-80 volunteered to help with weatherization projects including plastic on windows and door sealing for 24 houses as part of the CocnordCares project.

New Members

Ms. Hathaway welcomed Gail Chatlosh as the newly appointed member.

Committee Structure and Housekeeping

Mr. Crowley discussed the status of staff liaison, where the DPLM was in its final stages of selecting a new Senior Planner. He commented that the Chair should maybe send an updated memo to the Town Manger, expressing their request to retain the Senior Planner as a staff liaison.

Mr. Crowley also mentioned that the minutes need to be updated on the web, and he would have all the minutes ready for the next meeting.

Pamela Hathaway was elected as Chair, and Eric Gamage as Vice-Chair.

Committee Goals

Mr. Gamage reported on his research for evaluating models used by other Towns to reduce their energy. He mentioned the State's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and a program in London. He noted the likely best model is ICLIE, which would help measure energy and carbon emissions. Yet, He was unable to can in touch with the organization's representative.

Mr. Detweiler noted that he would like more information on whether the program has steps to specifically cut energy use to respond to the Selectmen's request.

Mr. Gamage agreed to investigate this issue further

Potential Solar Energy Projects

Ms. Hughes noted that she toured some of the Town buildings. The discussion looked at PV and thermal wall technologies. It seems that the potentially best option might be either solar thermal at the Beede Center or potentially a PV project at the schools. Ms. Hughes will talk to a few teachers and wait for the audit reports to assess where the “best site” might be.

Electricity Rate Structure and Smart Grid

Mr. Fulman discussed the potential new electricity rate structure. He noted that the CLMP is considering a block rate structure to increase the rate for users that use significantly more electricity than a comparative use. Mr. Detweiler inquired whether the rate structure can take into account of people that try to use more environmentally friendly technology such as electric cars, but would have a higher electric usage. Mr. Fulman was not sure if that is possible, but he would raise the issue.

Mr. Fulman also noted that CLMP is looking at maybe investing in a “smart grid”, which is a fiber optic cable that would allow a more Town centralized control of electric consumption. He noted that current technology is not yet capable of such control, but if/when possible, the Town would have a much better management over electric consumption.

Update on the Sawyer Trust

Mr. Crowley updated the members on 135 Keyes Road application that the Public works discussed the project with CLMP; units cannot be donated; the units are likely at the end of their life due to incorrect operation and submitted more information on the type of boiler replacement. The Committee had a few questions about efficiency standards and volunteered Mr. Crounse’s expertise to help the Public Works to resolve any remaining questions.

Mr. Crowley also commented that the Hunt Gym application had updated information and is seeking bids for the lighting upgrade. He told the Chair, Ms. Hathaway, that she should be expecting a letter with the final amount from the Recreation Department. As the project was previously approved, she could sign the recommendation letter and send it to the Town Manager.

Update on Energy Audit

Mr. Crowley stated the audit is underway, and it should be completed by March.

Tasks Assigned

The following tasks were assigned:

Pamela to work with Tyke to write letter regarding staff liaison replacement, and write letter regarding clarification of Sawyer Trust language.

Gail would check the availability to hold a larger meeting at the schools in April.

Sally to work with Gail for potential contacts at the school.

Eric to further investigate ICLIE.

Brian to work with Public works to help finalize their application.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyke Crowley, Clerk